Neglect of Sports promotion activities in North East

1955. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sports officials of the North East States criticized Sports Authority of India in recent sports meet for neglecting sports promotion activities of the North East sector; if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) what facilities Sports Authority of India presently provides for aspirant of North Eastern States; and

(c) the steps proposed to promote sports in the North East sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMAN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SUSHREE UMA BHARATI): (a) No, Sir, however, certain shortcomings were pointed out, which are being attended by the Sports Authority of India.

(b) The Sports Authority of India (SAI) has Schemes viz. National Sports Talent Contest (NSTC), Army Boys Sports Company (ABSC), Special Area Games (SAG) and SAI Training Centres (STC) for the aspirants of North Eastern States. Under these Schemes, an intensive talent spoting exercise is conducted to spot the talent at Sub Junior and Junior levels. The selected children are provided with sports facilities and in-house training, free board, lodging, education, sports kit, sports equipment, competition exposure, insurance and medical cover. A sports festival is also conducted every year in North Eastern States in which a large number of sportspersons from the region participate.

(c) Steps have been taken to improve the SAI sports facilities in Imphal and Guwahati. It is proposed to increase the number of trainees at various SAI Centres. Special Certificate Course has also been conducted in Sports Coaching for coaches belonging to North Eastern States to enable them to promote sports in their respective disciplines in the region.

Funds for Literacy Schemes

1956. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made special allocation of funds to achieve hundred per cent literacy in our country; and

(b) if so, the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) and (b) The National Literacy Mission aims to make 100 million persons in the age group 15-35 years functionally literate in a time-bound manner.

A sum of Rs. 630.39 crores has been allocated for Adult Education Programmes for the Ninth Five Year Plan. (1997-98 to 2001-2002).

Delhi University Teachers on Long Leave

1957. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Express Newsline section of the Indian Express dated the 16th January, 1999 under the caption, "Teachers-turned politicians set the example for long leave"; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and steps proposed to be taken to see that teachers attend classes regularly in colleges under the Delhi University?